



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



OPENINGS AT WOMEN VETERANS RETREAT

The VA Black Hills Health Care System (BHHCS) has informed us that there are still a few open spots at their semi-annual PCT Women's Retreat, scheduled for October 19-21, 2012. The retreat will be held at the Fort Meade Campus, two miles east of Sturgis.

The semi-annual women's retreats were developed as part of the VA's rural health care initiative, "serving the under-served".

The retreat, beginning at noon on October 19, is for women veterans of all eras diagnosed with PTSD and female family members of male veterans diagnosed with PTSD. The weekend retreats offer a condensed psycho educational, experiential format that educates participants about the debilitating symptoms of PTSD, effects on the family, with a particular emphasis on developing healthier coping strategies and increasing one's social support network.

"The PCT Women's Retreat in its 19th year, seeks to help participants examine some of the basic questions in their lives," said Cathy Edler, Addiction Therapist for the PCT Program and Retreat Coordinator. "The volunteer facilitators and participants build a community of people who are willing to take time to support each other. We provide a safe place to explore issues and allow you to come up with your own answers."

Interested participants must be screened and pre-register by phoning the PCT Program at 720-7449 or 1-800-743-1070, extension 7449. Travel eligibility inquiries should be directed to 720-7103.



Inside this issue:

VSO Mini Conferences	2
SDNG Museum Adds Military Cutouts	2
SF Veterans Fair/Open House	3
SD Veterans Commission Meets	4
BOMA Meets	4
NEW VSO at Douglas County	4
Oglala Tribal Cemetery	5
Re-Stationing Ceremony Set for Miller Unit	5
Christmas Ornaments Needed	6
SDNG Earns Safety Award	7
MJF State Veterans Home Wish List	8
WW II Veterans to be Honored at Holocaust Museum	9
Upcoming Events	10



VSO MINI CONFERENCES

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will hold their fall VSO Mini-Conferences November 14-16, 2012, at the following locations:

Nov. 14 — Sturgis - Veterans Club, 868 Main Street

Nov. 15 — Pierre - American Legion, 520 S. Pierre Street

Nov. 16 — Brookings — City/County Building, 520 3rd Street

With EVR season just around the corner, the primary focus of this training will be on veterans and widows pension. Other pertinent topics will be presented.

As in the past, the training sessions are scheduled to run from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Questions regarding the Fall Mini Conferences should be directed to Larry Person, South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (605-773-4982).



MUSEUM ADDS MILITARY CUTOUTS

In an effort to reach out to the youth visiting the South Dakota National Guard Museum, Director Johnson has developed yet another option. During a recent family outing at Wylie Park in Aberdeen, Johnson noted how much fun her children were having posing for faceless cutouts.

After she returned to work she thought about how that would work at the museum and would be an avenue to involve the youth.

She later discovered that one of the work release participants was an artist and was interested in assisting Johnson with this project. They discussed the concept and the rest is history. Now students visiting the museum can pose as a National Guard soldier from the minuteman era, to the Vietnam era, to the Afghanistan era.

Now that summer is over, Museum staff will be working on painting, redoing some of the display cases and updating the electrical wiring in the museum.



VETERANS OPEN HOUSE AND BENEFITS FAIR



Veterans Open House and Benefits Info Fair Oct. 16, 2012 4:00-7:00 PM Sioux Falls VA

Veterans: Learn more about your VA eligibility, health care, benefits, and other services.

Veterans will need to bring a copy of their DD214 discharge papers and 2011 income tax Form 1040 to assist in applying for benefits.

Questions , please contact
Shirley Redmond, Public Affairs Officer,
Sioux Falls VA Health Care System, at 605-333-6889 or
1-800-316-8387, Ext. 6889.

SD VETERANS COMMISSION TO MEET

The South Dakota Veterans Commission met this week at the South Dakota National Guard Museum in Pierre.

Deputy Secretary Harding provided the Commission with a legislative update, as well as an update on the East and West State Veterans Home projects. Director Claussen reported on benefit related issues. Updates were also provided on the VA Black Hills Health Care System, South Dakota's two Tribal Veterans Cemeteries and USD's Traumatic Stress Study.

Governor Dugaard recently appointed James Ross, of Whitewood, to the Veterans Commission. He replaces William Locken of Spearfish. Locken was recognized by the Commission for his service to the Commission and to South Dakota's veterans. Locken has served on the Commission from 2001 to 2012.

A complete agenda for the meeting can be found on the Department's website at:

<http://mva.sd.gov/download/Veteran%20Commission/Commission%20Agenda%20October%202012.pdf>



BOMA MEETS

The Board of Military Affairs met this week in Watertown. Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard and secretary of the South Dakota Department of the Military, updated BOMA board members on state and federal military related issues, future deployments and armory closures.

BOMA members and staff then toured the future Watertown Regional Readiness Center and saw first-hand what the state-of-the-art training center will provide.

NEW VSO AT DOUGLAS COUNTY

Douglas County has selected Fred Kuil as their new County Veterans Service Officer. Kuil replaces Lowell McFarland who has served as the VSO since 2001.

Office location will remain the same, but the mailing address for Douglas County VSO Kuil is PO Box 159, Armour, SD 57313.

We at the Department wish Lowell the best of luck on his retirement endeavors.



Fred Kuil



Lowell McFarland

GROUNDBREAKING HELD FOR OGLALA SIOUX TRIBAL VETERANS CEMETERY

Charles Claussen, Director of Veterans Benefits for the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Oglala Sioux Tribal Veterans Cemetery on Thursday, October 4.

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs has awarded a grant in the amount of \$6,510,800 for 100% of allowable costs associated with this project. Project funds will establish the construction of a main entrance building, roads, an assembly area, committal shelter, preplaced crypts, cremain burial areas, and will include 260 pre-placed crypts and 40 cremain gravesites.

The designated site for the new Oglala Sioux Tribal Veterans Cemetery will be located approximately 7.8 miles east of Kyle, South Dakota.

A special blessing of the site was held on Wednesday, September 26 and the groundbreaking was officially held on Thursday, October 4,



RE-STATIONING CEREMONY SET FOR MILLER GUARD UNIT

A re-stationing ceremony is set for the South Dakota Army National Guard unit from Miller for Sunday, Oct. 14 at noon (CDT) at the National Guard armory.

The ceremony is being held to honor the unit's lineage of service to the community, state and nation. The public is encouraged to attend.

Soldiers from Miller's Detachment 2, Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, will conduct their drill training in Redfield for several months before moving to Watertown upon completion of the new Readiness Center there.

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG will be the featured speaker at the ceremony.

The re-stationing is a result of federal budget cuts, U.S. Army restructuring and the construction of a new Regional Readiness Center in Watertown, announced in April.

OPERATION MILITARY KIDS SEEKING ORNAMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS TREE AT CAPITOL

Operation Military Kids will be decorating a tree at the South Dakota State Capitol.

The theme this year is "Joyous Sounds of Christmas."

OMK is asking people to design and contribute ornaments featuring South Dakota service members (current or past) to be placed on their tree.

Questions should be directed to Stacia McGourty (605-773-6391).

Operation: Military Kids!

Christmas at the Capitol 2012

Ornaments are needed for the 2012 Operation: Military Kids Christmas tree in Pierre.

This year's theme is "**Joyous Sounds of Christmas**". We're asking South Dakotans to create ornaments featuring photos of South Dakota service members.

Please send all ornaments to:

Stacia McGourty
South Dakota State Library
800 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

All ornaments must be received by Friday, November 9th.

If you would like more information please contact:
Stacia McGourty at stacia.mcgourty@state.sd.us or 605-773-6391

SDNG EARNS GOVERNOR'S SAFETY AWARD

The South Dakota Safety Council has awarded a Governor's Safety Award to both the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard for excellence in workplace safety and health.

The Army and Air Guard were among 59 employers who were recognized at the annual Governor's Safety Awards luncheon at the Sioux Falls Arena and Convention Center on Oct. 3.

"The South Dakota National Guard receives a lot of awards, but I can tell you that these safety awards mean a great deal to me because they align directly with my top priority of taking care of our Soldiers and Airmen and their families," said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the SDNG.

The Governor's Safety Awards recognize South Dakota employers with better than average safety records. Participants submit injury information which is compared with state and national data, as well as the entrant's past performance. Ongoing safety programs and activities are also considered and winners are recognized at three levels.

The Army Guard received a Meritorious Achievement Award, the entry level award, for better than average incident rates and answers to screening questions. This is the first time the Army Guard has submitted for the award and received it.

The Air Guard received the Award of Honor, the highest level of award, for exceptional accomplishment in reduction of injuries and illnesses in the workplace. This is the second straight year the Air Guard has received this honor.

"These awards are significant because they indicate that our leaders deem safety as very important for the readiness of the South Dakota National Guard," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Lonny Hofer, SDNG state safety officer. "These supervisors engage their employees as stakeholders in their facility safety programs to use best practices and the freedom to report hazards to aid in accident prevention."

The Governor's Safety Awards luncheon was part of the 20th South Dakota Safety & Health Conference, coordinated by the South Dakota Safety Council. The conference is the largest gathering of workplace safety and health professionals in the region. The South Dakota Safety Council, founded in 1949, is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in South Dakota by preventing unintentional injuries ("accidents").



ITEMS NEEDED FOR RESIDENTS AT MICHAEL J. FITZMAURICE STATE VETERANS HOME

NEEDS LIST

1. Greeting Cards (Sympathy, Thank You and Birthday)
2. 12 Gauge Shotgun Shells for Trap Club and Fall Hunting
3. 18-20 Gallon Totes (for resident storage)
4. Postage Stamps
5. Single Beds
6. Recliners
7. Lamps
8. Electric Razors
9. Wireless Headphones for Watching Television
10. Steam Iron (for residents to iron clothes)
11. Small Plastic Bags (for residents to carry bath items to whirlpool on bath day)
12. Personal Care Items (mouthwash, deodorant, denture care products, nail clippers, Kleenex, and body wash)
13. Clothing—diabetic socks, x-large tube socks, medium size t-shirts, medium-through x-large size sweat pants, and large size women's clothing
14. Funds (this money goes toward tournament prizes, concert series tickets, bowling program costs, special event tickets, fishing supplies, and craft items)

Any questions regarding this list, please call Barb Berry (605-745-5127)

Staff from the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home has published the "needs list" for the residents at the State Veterans Home.

The generosity and dedication shown to the residents is greatly appreciated. However, in order to keep many of their offsite activities a reality, assistance is needed.

As in the past, if you have any questions regarding the items posted, please give Larry Wilcox or his staff a call.

Working together we can ensure that our veterans are able to participate in numerous off-site ventures, communicate with their families, etc.

Your continued support of our veterans, as well as the staff at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home is greatly appreciated.

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM TO HONOR WORLD WAR II VETERANS

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, America's national memorial to the Holocaust, will honor all the brave soldiers who fought in World War II as part of its 20th anniversary commemoration.

Plans for this milestone occasion, are a National Tribute in Washington, DC, as well as a National Tour honoring Holocaust survivors and World War II veterans in four cities across the country.

The National Tribute in Washington, DC will be held on April 28 - 29, 2013, and will focus on bringing together the people who lived this history – Holocaust survivors, World War II veterans, rescuers, and their families – in the largest numbers they can – along with U.S. and European officials and Museum supporters and partners, for what will most likely be the last gathering of eyewitnesses on this scale.

Working in close cooperation with the World War II Memorial, the Museum is expecting thousands at this two-day gathering, which begins with a Tribute Dinner on Sunday, April 28th at the Washington, DC Convention Center – free for survivors and veterans, who may bring one companion for \$50. Through this tribute, it is their hope to remind the American public, especially our youth, of just what was at stake during World War II and the enormous sacrifices that were made to preserve the free world.

The National Tribute continues on Monday, April 29th at the Museum, which will be closed to the public to mark this historic occasion. The day will begin with a ceremony at the Eisenhower Plaza featuring the flags of the U.S. Army Divisions that liberated the Nazi concentration camps. An Open House follows with a day of special programs, tours, and family activities throughout the Museum. In addition, "affinity tables"



will provide opportunities for those from the same divisions or communities to socialize. The day, which includes lunch, is free with advance registration.

The Museum will also be hosting free, day-long public events in four cities: Boca Raton (December 9), Los Angeles (February 17), New York (March 3), and Chicago (June 9). Throughout the day, veterans and their families will have the opportunity to meet with curators and conservators about personal collections. They may attend panel discussions with well-known experts, presentations of rarely seen film clips from the Museum's collection, and participatory family activities. And, of course, there will be opportunities to socialize. The day will conclude with a special tribute to local survivors and World War II veterans.

More information can be found at www.ushmm.org/neveragain.

Never Again. What You Do Matters.

20th Anniversary National Tour and Tribute to Holocaust Survivors and World War II Veterans

Upcoming Events

Oct. 16—SFVAHCS Veterans Open House and Benefits Information Fair—Sioux Falls VA (2501 W. 22nd Street) - 4:00 pm—7:00 pm
Oct. 19—SFVAHCS Women Veterans Conference—Sioux Falls Holiday Inn City Centre (100 W. 8th Street) - 8:00 am—2:45 pm
Oct. 19—SFVAHCS Flu Shot Clinic—Wagner CBOC—12:30 pm—4:30 pm
Oct. 22—SFVAHCS Flu Shot Clinic—Watertown CBOC—8:30 am—4:00 pm
Oct. 23—SFVAHCS Flu Shot Clinic—Watertown CBOC—8:30 am—4:00 pm
Oct. 23—SD Veterans Council Meeting—DAV—Sioux Falls—10:30 am
Oct. 26—SFVAHCS Flu Shot Clinic—Wagner CBOC—12:30 pm—4:30 pm
Oct 23—SD Veterans Council Meeting—DAV—Sioux Falls—10:30 am
Nov. 1—SFVAHCS Flu Shot Clinic—Watertown CBOC—8:30 am—4:30 pm
Nov. 11—Veterans Day
Nov. 12—Veterans Day Regional Site Program—Riggs High School Theatre—Pierre—10:45 am
Nov. 14 — SDDVA Mini Conference—Sturgis - Veterans Club, 868 Main Street
Nov. 15 — SDDVA Mini Conference—Pierre - American Legion, 520 S. Pierre Street
Nov. 16 — SDDVA Mini Conference—Brookings – City/County Building, 520 3rd Street
Dec. 8—Wreaths Across America

Check out the Department on Facebook —

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/South-Dakota-Department-of-Military-and-Veterans-Affairs/156424074389725>

South Dakota National Guard Museum is now on Facebook —

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.115957121889013.23203.115956388555753&type=3#/southdakotationalguardmuseum>



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